



Rosebud Sioux
Tribe
Sicangu Oyate
Rosebud, South Dakota 57570

RODNEY M. BORDEAUX
President
WILLIAM KINDLE
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GERRI NIGHT PIPE
Secretary
LOUIS WAYNE BOYD
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April 27, 2009

The Honorable Stephanie Herseth Sandlin
331 Cannon House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Surface Transportation Reauthorization High Priority Project Request Form

Dear Representative Herseth Sandlin:

I am writing on behalf of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe ("Rosebud") to submit Rosebud's surface transportation projects for consideration in the next surface transportation reauthorization bill. As you know, transportation infrastructure is a serious impediment to sustainable economic development in Indian Country. Two-thirds of reservation roads are unpaved and of poor quality, which has a major impact on highway safety. According to the Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA"), the highway fatality rate on Indian reservation roads is four (4) times the national average. To ameliorate the deplorable roads conditions within Rosebud's jurisdiction, I submit our surface transportation projects, **which the Rosebud Sioux Tribe fully supports**, for consideration to be included in the upcoming surface transportation bill.

Our District 27 compliance submissions are to replace, rehabilitate, and construct asphalt surface overlays of Bureau of Indian Affairs level three (3) rating roads (described as having a moderate amount of unrepaired potholes, ruts, or unsealed cracks). There are seven tribal communities which includes 3,681 residents, who travel on the forty-two (42) miles of roads included in our seven routes included within our high priority project request. These seven routes access areas of cultural and historic importance, ceremonial areas, scenic byways, traditional sites, bus routes, first responder (ambulance, fire truck, and law enforcement) routes, and recreational trails. Through the improvement of the seven routes included in this request, we will improve the safety of the roads, the community's ability to travel, and access to several facets of our community.

The total cost of repairing our forty-two (42) miles of road is \$13,213,923.00. Rosebud is seeking eighty (80) percent of the total cost (\$10,471,137.00) to be funded from the Federal Lands Highways, and the remaining twenty (20) percent (\$2,742,786.00) to be funded from the Indian Reservations Roads Program which is operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, under the Department of the Interior.

Opportunities for public comment regarding these projects will consist of local community meetings to be held within each community affected by the proposed construction.

In closing, I want to express our deep appreciation for all your leadership and public service commitment to Rosebud and the citizens of South Dakota. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Sherman Wright at (605) 856-2492 or George Guerue at (605) 747-2251.

Sincerely yours,


Rodney M. Bordeaux, President
Rosebud Sioux Tribe